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FIGHTIN' MARINES

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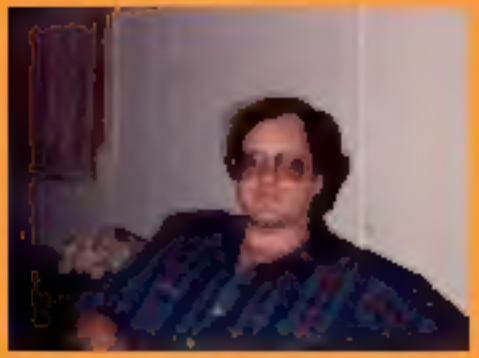

Fightin' Marines #159 Charlton 1981

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US HEROES

SURE, I KNOW THERE ARE OTHER GUYS IN THIS "POLICE ACTION"... AIR FORCE AND ARMY, THE NAVY CRUISING OFF-SHORE, QUARTERMASTER CORPS TAKING CARE OF CHOW AND GEAR STUFF LIKE THAT. UP THERE... THE PILOTS GET MEDALS FOR BEIN' WARM AND CLEAN AND FLYING THEIR CUTE LITTLE AIRPLANES AROUND A NICE, CLEAR SKY.

IT'S US... THE MARINES IN THE C.Z.... YEAH, US GUYS IN THE BOONDOCKS WHO DO THE REAL WORK IN THIS WAR! THE REST OF THEM ARE RIDIN' ON OUR BACKS AN' THEY KNOW IT! JUST SPEND THE DAY WITH US... IF YA DON'T MIND MUD, BLOOD, AN' A FREEZIN' RAIN THAT'LL WET YA TO THE SKIN BEFORE AN HOUR GOES BY. WE BEEN SLEEPIN' IN THIS SLOP IN THE FOXHOLES EVERY NIGHT FOR WEEKS... WE DON'T EVEN NOTICE IT ANY MORE!

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WE FOUGHT BACK THE COMMIES ALL NIGHT AND ONE OF THEIR HORN-BLOWING, PAN-BANGING ATTACKS AT DAWN. THE LIEUTENANT'S WOUNDED BUT HE WON'T LET THE MEDICS SEND HIM BACK... LIKE FOGARTY, A.P.F.C. IN THE NEXT FOXHOLE...HE GOT GRENADE FRAGMENTS IN THE ARM AND SHOULDER... HE WON'T QUIT EITHER.

IF WE GOT THAT ARTILLERY SUPPORT THE ARMY PROMISED US THIS MORNIN', WE WOULDN'T GET AS MANY CASUALTIES.

LOOK AT THE AIR FORCE JET... HE SURE AIN'T GETTIN' ANY CLOSER TO THIS NASTY LITTLE POLICE ACTION THAN HE HAS TO.

WHOOOMMFF

THE GOOKS GOT A HEAVY MORTAR ON *HILL 734*. THE AIR FORCE SENT THREE PLANES TO BOMB IT A LITTLE WHILE AGO...

"I'LL BET THEM AIR FORCE CREEPS DIDN'T EVEN BOMB THE RIGHT HILL," CPL. LECKONBY SAYS BITTERLY. "AND IF THEY DID, THEY STAYED UP SO HIGH THEY **MISSED** WITH EVERY BOMB, ROCKET AND BULLET!"

PULL UP... WE'RE GETTING CLOBBERED, I'M LOSING FUEL!

USAF

HERE THEY COME AGAIN, HEAVY MORTAR BARRAGE FIRST... THE LIEUTENANT'S HIT AGAIN, POOR GUY.

GET READY... MAKE EACH ROUND COUNT, YOU GRUNTS!

FIND ONE MEDIC DEAD, ANOTHER WOUNDED, THE THIRD WITH HIS HANDS FULL ALREADY...

THERE THEY GO! CEASE FIRE ... PRESERVE AMMO!

CORPORAL, THE LIEUTENANT'S WORSE! HE NEEDS MEDICS RIGHT QUICK!

KEEP GOIN' LECKONBY! TRY TUH REACH A FIELD STATION WITH A DOCTOR TENDIN' THE WOUNDED. I GOT NO PLASMA LEFT UP HERE.

NO TIME, CORPORAL! I'VE GOT TO REACH THE ARMY ARTILLERY BACK TH...

I RECKON YUH'LL *MAKE* TIME FOR US, COLONEL!

DAMMIT, GIVE HIM TO ME AND YOU GET IN THE BACK, MARINE.

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT, SIR!

I GOT THE M1 COCKED AND I SLIDE THE SAFETY OFF AS I BRING IT UP. THE BIRD COLONEL GETS THE MESSAGE QUICK...

THERE'S A 155MM HOWITZER OUTFIT FIRING WHERE THE MEDICS TAKE OVER THE LIEUTENANT. THEY CHASE ME... SO I FIGURE I'LL HANG AROUND A MINUTE AND TELL THESE JOKERS ALL THE THINGS THEY BEEN DOIN' WRONG.

WHN'T THESE JOKERS GET SOME SLEEP AT NIGHT? THEY MUST BE HAVIN' A BIG TIME IN SEOUL EVERY NIGHT!

HEY, MARINE! C'MERE!

START PASSIN' SHELLS, MARINE. WE GOT A RULE... ANYBODY CAUGHT RUBBERNECKIN' IN THE AREA IS PUT TO WORK!

IT'S NO PICNIC FEEDING THESE HOWITZERS IN A HEAVY DOWNPOUR. MY BACK IS BREAKIN' BEFORE AN HOUR GOES BY...

IT'S HARD WORK... BUT THEY'RE NOT GETTIN' SHOT AT!

COMMIE ATTACK!

WATCH IT... GOOKS IN THE AREA!

GRENADE!

HOW'D HE GIT BACK THIS FAR?

YOU MARINES LET A LOT OF THEM GET PAST THE CZ. WE'RE ATTACKED A COUPLE TIMES EVERY DAY!

I DON'T WASTE TIME AROUND THE HOWITZER OUTFIT... I DIDN'T COME TO KOREA TO BREAK MY NECK LUGGING LOADS LIKE THAT AROUND IN THE MUD.

GOT TO GET BACK TO THE PLATOON. THERE'S A MOTOR DEPOT YONDER. I'LL HITCH A RIDE UP TO THE CZ.

I'M IN LUCK. I FIND AN ARMY 6X6 DRIVER ABOUT READY TO ROLL.

A RIDE UP NEAR HILL 734? I'M HEADIN' THAT WAY, MARINE. CLIMB ABOARD!

HEY, SOLDIER, YOU'LL BUST THE EGGS OR WHATEVER YOU GOT IN BACK!

IF I DO YOU'LL NEVER KNOW IT, MARINE!

WHAT WE GOT BACK THERE ARE *HAND GRENADES, BANGALORE TORPEDOES* AND *DYNAMITE!* BUMP AHEAD... YOU BETTER *PRAY!*

WAMMO!

ALL OF A SUDDEN, HUGE SHELLS LAND ON BOTH SIDES OF US. THE NEXT ONE WILL BE RIGHT ON TARGET... AND I'LL BE ON MY WAY TO THE MOON!

THE SHELLS ALMOST LAND ON OUR HEADS... THE TRUCK IS BLASTED FROM SIDE TO SIDE... AND MY TEETH ARE CHATTERING! I'M SCARED... WORSE THAN I EVER WAS IN THE C.Z.

STOP THIS CRATE! LET'S HIT THE DITCH!

CAN'T, MACK! THERE'S GUYS UP THERE *DEPENDIN'* ON ME! DON'T YOU KNOW THERE'S A *POLICE ACTION* ON?

THERE'S ONLY *SO MUCH* A MAN C'N TAKE!

HERE'S AN AIR FORCE FIGHTER FIELD. I GET AN IDEA...

CAN I GET ON THE FIELD, MACK?

GO AHEAD BUT KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED... COMMIE MIGs STRAFE THE FIELD EVERY NOW AND THEN.

WHO YOU RIBBIN', MACK?

GET UP OUTA THERE! I SWEAR, YOU GYRENES ARE REAL *CHILDISH* ONCE YOU GET PRIED OUTA YORE FOXHOLE!

YAAH! YOU FLYBOYS ARE REAL BIG HEROES. YOU GOT A RACKET, THAT'S WHAT!

POP OFF SOME MORE AND WIND UP TELLING THEM THEY MISS THEIR TARGET MOST OF THE TIME BECAUSE THEY FLY TOO HIGH AND DON'T KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR. SO I'M INVITED ALONG... AND THEY DON'T GIVE ME A CHANCE TO CHICKEN OUT.

DON'T LET HIM UP YET. HE MIGHT JUMP OUT AGAIN.

HOLY HANNAH! A GUY COULD GET *KILLED* UP HERE!

WE'RE NEAR YOUR HILL 734, GYRENE IF YOU'LL POINT OUT YOUR OUTFIT AND SHOW US WHERE THE COMMIES ARE WE'LL TRY TO DO SOME GOOD THIS TIME!

GULP! WE'RE AWFUL LOW, AREN'T WE? HEY!! THERE'S MY PLATOON DOWN THERE ON THE RIDGE. THE COMMIES ARE THERE... ON THE CREST OF HILL 734!

USAF

HANG ON TO THAT, GYRENE! STAND BY TO FIRE ROCKETS!

THESE GUYS AREN'T FOR REAL! THE ROCKETS GET RIGHT ON TARGET. THEY DROP THE BOMBS FROM ZERO ALTITUDE... AND I KNOW BRAVO COMPANY WON'T BE GETTIN' TNT DANDRUFF FOR AWHILE.

NOW WE START *A STRAFIN' RUN!*

USAF

EVERY GUN IN THIS OVER-AGE BUCKET IS GOING! ANOTHER MIG IS KNOCKING CHUNKS OFF THE BEAT-UP BOMBER... I'M SO SCARED I CAN JUST ABOUT AIM MY GREASE-GUN AT THE REDS ON THE TOP OF THE HILL ABOUT TEN FEET UNDER US!

GET THAT BIG MIG, TONY!

TAIL-GUNNER, STRAFE THE ACK-ACK GUNS AS WE GO BY!

HOLD IT LOW, SKIPPER... THERE'S A COMMIE TANK DOWNSLOPE!

NOW WE GO HOME?

NOT WHILE WE GOT GAS AN' AMMO, GYRENE! WE'LL FLY THE ROADS... SOMETIMES WE **SCARE** COMMIE TRUCKS OFF THE ROADS WHEN WE'RE OUT OF AMMO!

YOU JUST SCARED *ME* OUTA THE AIRPLANE!

WHERE YOU GOIN', GYRENE?

HOLD HER FIRE. IT'S CPL. LECKON-BY! HE DIDN'T GO AWOL AFTER ALL!

I GIVE THEM THE WORD.. IT COMES AS A SHOCK TO THEM BUT IT'S TIME THEY LEARNED IT TOO.

TAKE MY WORD FOR IT! WE'RE NOT THE ONLY HEROES IN THIS POLICE ACTION. AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT'S KINDA *NICE TO GET BACK HERE WHERE A GUY HAS A CHANCE TO SURVIVE!*

END

"I DON'T DESERVE THE MEDAL"

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S HAPPENING TO ME... ME, BOYD HUDDLESTON, THE SKINNY KID WHO LOST MORE FISTFIGHTS DOWN HOME IN NEW HAMPSHIRE THAN ANY KID IN TOWN! SEEMS TO ME, EVER SINCE I GOT TAKEN INTO THE MARINE CORPS IN JANUARY 1942, I'VE BEEN SCARED GREENER THAN THE UNIFORM I'M WEARIN' NOW... BUT IT'S ME, SURE ENOUGH, THAT'S GETTING THE SILVER STAR HERE AT CAMP PENDLETON!

... FOR DESTROYING AN ENEMY MACHINE GUN NEST ON GUADALCANAL AFTER SUSTAINING TWO SERIOUS WOUNDS, YOU HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE SILVER STAR!

GENERAL, SIR, THE OTHER GUYS IN MY SQUAD DESERVE IT MORE!

CORPORAL, THE U.S. MARINECORPS DOES NOT AWARD MEDALS FOR BRAVERY TO MEN WHO DON'T DESERVE IT! REMEMBER THAT!

YES, SIR!

WE'RE SHIPPING OUT SOON, BOYD. I'VE GOT YOU IN MY COMPANY AGAIN!

B-401

Montes • Bache

JANUARY, 1942, I'M IN BOOT CAMP AT CAMP LEJEUNNE. THE DRILL INSTRUCTOR BEARS DOWN ON ME FROM MY FIRST MISERABLE DAY THERE!

YOU MISERABLE EXCUSE FOR A BOOT, YOU'LL NEVER MAKE A MARINE... UNLESS YOU WORK TWICE AS HARD AS ANYONE ELSE...

...AND I WORK A MAJOR MIRACLE!

ON ACCOUNTA BEIN' SO SMALL, I HAVE IT ROUGH WITH SOME OF THE GUYS!

THAT'S MY BUNK, SONNY! NOW, GIT YER STUFF OFFA THERE!

YOU DON'T S-SCARE ME!

I AIN'T BACKIN' DOWN FOR NOBODY!

RAP RAP RAP

COME ON, COME ON, I'LL FIGHT YA!

BELIEVE IT OR NOT. I WAS AFRAID OF FIRING A RIFLE AT FIRST... BUT AFTER I GET USED TO IT I LEARN HOW TO HIT WHAT I'M AIMIN' AT.

POW POW POW!

24

25

I GOT LEGS MADE OF SPAGHETTI. I KNOW, WHEN [redacted] GO ON THE LONG HIKES. AND IT'S LUCK TO BE ASSIGNED TO A MACHINE GUN CREW AND TO HAVE TO TOTE HEAVY CHUNKS OF IT...

BUT I SURVIVED...I GET ASSIGNED TO AN OUTFIT AND I'M SHIPPED OUT. DESTINATION, A PLACE NONE OF US EVER HEARD OF...

GUADALCANAL? WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S NOT A WHAT, IT'S A WHERE! IT'S ALL JUNGLE... PLENTY HOT!

GUADALCANAL, AUGUST 7, 1942, AND I'M SO SCARED I'M GREENER THAN THE STINKING JUNGLE CLOSE BY...

YOU'RE GONNA NEED TO CLEAN YOUR RIFLE, BOOT! COME UP FOR AIR... AIN'T NOBODY FIRIN' AT US RIGHT NOW!

I AIN'T SCARED, SERGEANT!

I KNOW. I'M NOT EITHER...NOT MUCH, ANYHOW.

WE MOVED DEEPER INTO THE JUNGLE. AHEAD OF US, THERE'S THE RATTLE OF MACHINE GUNS... LIGHTER THAN OURS! THEY'RE JAPS... AND MY HANDS ARE SHAKING AS I TRY TO LIGHT A CIGARETTE.

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

HOW I WISH I HAD THE GUTS TO RUN LIKE THE COWARD I KNOW I AM... BUT I'M TOO ASHAMED. I STAY HERE. LOOKING [illegible] JAPS.

I SEE ONE! LOOKING AT ME! SUDDENLY, SOMEONE'S FIRING AT HIM. THREE FAST SHOTS FROM AN M1.

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM

NICE SHOOTIN', SCAREDYCAT! YOU GOT THE FIRST JAP IN THE OUTFIT!

THAT WAS ME!!

THAT NIGHT, I'M IN AN OUTPOST AND I SUDDENLY DISCOVER THAT I'VE GOT THE KEENEST EARS IN THE MARINE CORPS! AND THE LEAST AMOUNT OF GUTS!

HEY, JOE!

HELP, JOE!

MEDIC!

THEY'RE JAPS... ALL JAPS!

GOT TO SWEAT IT OUT! WAIT TILL I'M SURE THERE ARE JAPS MOVING UP... WHEN I'M SURE I SHOOT THE GREEN FLARE!

PLOP!

I'M SURE!

IT WORKED JUST LIKE IN THE MOVIES! WHEN THE PARACHUTE FLARES BURST UP THERE I SAW A COUPLE HUNDRED JAPS... AND THEY WERE CUT DOWN BY OUR M.G.S. AND THE MARINES' M1'S!

HUDDLESTON TIMED IT JUST RIGHT! THAT KID REALLY PLAYED IT COOL!

RAT A TAT TAT A T

THEY DON'T SEE ME...

THEY'RE BOUND TO BUMP INTO ME DURING THE NIGHT! GOT TO DO SOMETHING!

THIS BETTER WORK...ONE... TWO...THREE...

...FOUR...

... FIVE!

I WAS STUCK OUT THERE ALL NIGHT BUT IN THE MORNING THE LIEUTENANT RELIEVES ME AND I GET A CHANCE TO GRAB SOME COFFEE AND A SMOKE.

THIS KID'S A REAL PRO, SKIPPER! HE DID A GREAT JOB LAST NIGHT.

DON'T THEY KNOW HOW SCARED I AM!

THERE COMES A MORNING IN SEPTEMBER... A LIFETIME LATER... A MOMENT OF TRUTH! MY SQUAD HAS TO TAKE A HILL.

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

I FEEL LIKE HE'S FIRING RIGHT AT ME... BUT I KNOW THAT'S WRONG ... 'CAUSE HALF THE SQUAD IS DOWN!

PTWNNGG!

ZINGGG!

ZING!!

I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT! I CAN'T QUIT! I CAN'T RUN! I'M A DEAD MAN AND I KNOW IT SO I KEEP ON GOING!

ZING!

ZIP!

POW!

POW!

THEY EMPTY A BELT...I'M STILL ALIVE. I DON'T LEARN TILL LATER THAT I'M HURT BAD ENOUGH TO LAY DOWN FOR AWHILE!

AND I SIGNAL THE PLATOON, "COME ON", I TELL THEM, THERE AIN'T NO JAPS LEFT UP HERE. JUST ME!"

SO I GET THE MEDAL...BUT I'M THINKING OF THE MARINES WHO DIED CLIMBING THAT HILL!

THIS IS A NEW BATTLE. SAIPAN, 1944... AND THIS IS WORSE THAN GUADALCANAL! I'M LEARNING SOMETHING ABOUT MYSELF... I'M MORE SCARED NOW THAN I WAS ON GUADALCANAL!

SAIPAN!

I'M PERMANENTLY SHAKY NOW. BUT I CAN FUNCTION, SCARED OR NOT. AND I CAN SHOVE A GRENADE IN THERE WITH THE JAPS...

A MEDIC'S GIVIN' ME PLASMA WHEN I COME OUT OF IT... AND THERE'S THE C.O. GRINNING AT ME.

YOU'LL GET A BIGGER MEDAL THIS TIME, HUDDLESTON... AND THIS TIME I DON'T WANT TO HEAR... I DON'T DESERVE THE MEDAL, GENERAL! THIS TIME, FOR SURE, YOU RATE THE DECORATION.

THIS TIME I AIN'T GONNA ARGUE, SKIPPER! BUT I WAS SCARED WITLESS ALL THE TIME!

PLASMA

END

Major Haydock's Last War

HE WAS A LIVING LEGEND AT TARAWA... THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF AN ASSAULT WAVE OF MARINES... DRIVING THROUGH A RAIN OF LEAD TO GET THE SLANT-EYED ENEMY ON THE BEACH!

B Y&R

TARAWA WAS LT. HAYDOCK'S FIRST BATTLE... BUT IT WASN'T GOING TO BE HIS LAST!

KEEP GOING, SKIPPER!

I AIN'T STOPPIN' THIS SIDE OF TOKYO!

WE ESTABLISHED A BEACHHEAD... HE REFUSED TO GO DOWN DESPITE THE THOUSANDS OF BULLETS AND SHELLS THROWN AT HIM!

GOT TO GET OFF THE OPEN BEACH

GET IN THERE... WHILE HAYDOCK'S KEEPIN' THEM BUSY!

BUDA-BUDA-BUDA

ONCE I GET THIS BUNCH, I'LL BE OKAY!

BARRT-BRRT-

DIDN'T GET 'EM ALL!

GOT HALF A CLIP LEFT IN THE THOMPSON. THAT OUGHTA BE ENOUGH!

VIP-VIP-VIP-

ZZIIIN

MARINES OFF SHORE SAW LT HAYDOCK, ALREADY WOUNDED, STUMBLING BACKWARD, EMPTY HIS THOMPSON INTO THE STRAFING ZERO!

HAYDOCK DID IT! HE GOT THE ZERO! COME ON, LETS GO IN THERE BEFORE HE HANGS UP THE WHOLE WAR!

I'M HIT... IN A COUPLE PLACES!

A MEDIC'S ON THE WAY, LIEUTENANT! YOU SET DOWN... WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE!

SET DOWN? LISTEN, MACK... I AIN'T SETTIN' TILL I REACH THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ISLAND!

THERE'S THE STRONGPOINT! YOU GUYS COVER FOR ME...I'M GOIN' IN!

BRROOM

THEY SPOTTED HIM!

THEY GOT HIM ZEROED IN!

BRROOM

THEY CAN'T MISS HAYDOCK NOW!

HE DID IT!

I'LL BET HE GOT MORE HOLES IN HIM THAN THE SOCKS I THRUN AWAY YESTIDDY! HE'S HIT IN SIX PLACES!

BRROOM

MOVE UP! MOVE UP! WE GOT TO TAKE THE HIGH GROUND!

TAKE IT EASY, LIEUTENANT! LET THE MEDICS PATCH YOU UP, FIRST!

I'M OKAY! I...

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE LIEUTENANT!

WHEN LT. HAYDOCK RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS HE WAS BANDAGED UP AND ON A STRETCHER WAITING TO BE TAKEN TO ONE OF THE SHIPS OFF-SHORE...

I LET 'EM DOWN, CAPTAIN! CONKED OUT ON 'EM DIDN'T I?

YOU TOOK THE BEACH, RAY... THE REST OF US.. MADE IT BECAUSE OF YOU!

THE WAR WENT ON WHILE LT. HAYDOCK'S WOUNDS HEALED. SAIPAN, GUAM, TINIAN... THEY WERE CAPTURED. 1944 CAME TO AN END BEFORE THEY...

...RETURNED CAPTAIN HAYDOCK TO ACTIVE DUTY. HE WAS IN TIME FOR THE UGLIEST PIECE OF REAL ESTATE IN THE WORLD..

...THE PLACE CALLED IWO JIMA! CAPTAIN HAYDOCK, AS USUAL, WAS OUT IN FRONT SHOWING HIS COMBAT MARINES THE WAY...

COME ON, COME ON! IF YA SLOW DOWN YA DIE!

WITH 2000 POUND SHELLS FALLING ON THE VOLCANIC SAND BEACHES AND BROKEN STONE SLOPES, WITH F4U MARINE FIGHTERS ROARING BACK AND FORTH WITH BOMBS AND BULLETS, THE JAPS STILL RESISTED... AND IT TOOK A MAN LIKE CAPTAIN HAYDOCK TO GO INTO THEIR FORTIFIED POSITIONS AND DIG THEM OUT!

GOT 'EM!

FOOT BY BITTER FOOT, CAPT. HAYDOCK LED HIS TOUGH COMPANY OF MARINES UP THE DEADLY SLOPES..

HAYDOCK'S BLEEDIN' BAD... HE WON'T STOP TO LET A MEDIC LOOK AT HIM! HE'S SOME *KINDA NUT!*

IWO JIMA ENDS FOR HIM... 10 FEET FROM THE PILLBOX HE DESTROYED BEFORE HE FELL! HE WASN'T DEAD...

...BUT HE AIN'T GOT *ENOUGH BLOOD* LEFT TUH FILL A *FOUNTAIN PEN!* WE GOTTA GET A TRANSFUSION INTO THE CAPTAIN *BEFORE* WE MOVE HIM!

AT TARAWA, HE DID THE SAME THING! *HE KNOWS*... THE WAR'S OVER FOR HIM ONCE THE DOCTORS GET A LOOK AT THE SHAPE HE'S IN!

IWO JIMA WAS THE LAST BATTLE OF WORLD WAR II FOR CAPT. HAYDOCK. AWARDED PURPLE HEART AND CLUSTER, MARINE CROSS, D.S.C., ETC., HE WAS SAVED BY SKILLED SURGEONS ABOARD A HOSPITAL SHIP.

AMAZING! THAT MARINE CAPTAIN IS GOING TO LIVE!

HE GOT A SHATTERED KNEE BUT WE SAVED THE LEG. HE LOST VISION IN ONE EYE... BUT HE'S LUCKY TO BE ALIVE AT ALL!

HE LIVED... AND HIS LOVED ONES AT HOME WELCOMED HIM BACK!

OH, DARLING... YOU LOOK WONDERFUL!

HE FINISHED LAW SCHOOL AND WENT INTO PRACTICE. HE PROSPERED...

WHAT IF IT IS DULL... I'M LUCKY TO BE ALIVE...

LAW OFFICES

SMITH, BOYCE & HAYDOCK

...WITH A SON LIKE DAVID AND A WIFE LIKE BETH.

RAY, WERE YOU EVER IN A PLACE CALLED KOREA?

EX-MARINE HAYDOCK MISSED KOREA...HE ITCHED TO GO THERE... BUT THEY WOULDN'T TAKE HIM HE KNEW. THEN, HIS BOY WAS OLDER... SIXTEEN... AND IN 1963, THE MESS IN VIET NAM WAS BEGINNING TO BOIL.

THERE'S A DRAFT, DAVE. THEY'LL COME FOR YOU.

WILL I HAVE TO GO, DAD?

YOU CAN TRY TO DODGE THE DRAFT OR SEEK DEFERMENT OR DO ALL THE THINGS A FEW OTHERS ATTEMPT...I WON'T BE PROUD OF YOU IF YOU DO... BUT I'M NOT GOING TO PRESSURE YOU IN THIS MATTER. DO WHAT YOU THINK IS *RIGHT!*

DAVE HAYLOCK ENLISTED IN THE MARINE CORPS, NATURALLY. HIS FATHER CONCEALED THE FEAR HE FELT FOR HIM... HIS MOTHER COULD LET THE TEARS FLOW FOR THE WORLD TO SEE...

DO YOUR BEST, SON! WE'LL PRAY FOR YOU!

THIS WAS WORSE THAN ANY BATTLE. HIS SON WAS IN VIET NAM...IN ACTION... AND HE, ROY HAYDOCK, WAS OUT OF IT!

AFTER AN INSISTENT TELEPHONE CALL, EX. CAPT. HAYDOCK FLEW TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

I *KNOW* I CAN HELP IN VIET NAM!

RE-ACTIVATED, MAJOR HAYDOCK ARRIVED IN VIET NAM IN FEBRUARY, 1967.

SAIGON AIR TER

THE MAJOR FOUND HIS SON'S BASE, BUT...CPL. HAYDOCK'S PLATOON WAS IN THE IRON TRIANGLE ON A MISSION...

HE'S A GOOD MARINE, MAJOR. THEY'RE DUE BACK IN AWHILE!

CAPTAIN, THEY RAN INTO A BATTALION OF NORTH VIETNAMESE. WE GOTTA GO IN FOR THEM!

YOU'LL KNOW HOW TO USE THAT WEAPON, MAJOR? NOW, REMEMBER... YOU ORDERED ME TO LET YOU COME ALONG! WITH YOUR VISION AND THAT STIFF LEG YOU GOT NO BUSINESS IN COMBAT, MAJOR!

42

CPL. DAVE HAYDOCK IS ABOUT TO DIE AND HE KNOWS IT... BUT HE'S HIS FATHER'S SON AND HE'S FIGHTING TO THE LAST!

YOU DIE NOW, JOE!

DAVE!

HANG ON, DAVE!

DAD!

I WAS ZAPPED FOR SURE, DAD...TILL YOU CAME ALONG! DAD, I NEVER SAW YOU RUN LIKE THAT! YOUR LEG...

I GUESS I JUST FORGOT TO LIMP SON.... BUT THE KNEE'S JUST AS STIFF AS EVER NOW THE FIGHTING'S ENDED!

THE MARINES PRESENT SWEAR THESE TWO ARE THE GREATEST TEAM IN THE HISTORY OF THE CORPS. MAJOR HAYDOCK'S LEG ISN'T CRIPPLED... AND HIS VISION IS AS KEEN AS IT EVER WAS...

THIS IS MAJOR HAYDOCK'S LAST WAR. HIS OWN WOUND AND HIS SON'S ARE THE KIND THAT GET THEM SENT HOME TO RECOVER...

THE END